

January 2010

SHORE SAFARIS

Coastwise training is underway to offer several shore safaris next summer. Jim Monroe is co-ordinating the project with help from Robert Down and Anne Brown.

The AONB Sustainable Development funding covers a 3 month period from October 2009. Training sessions at Hallsannery Field Centre include two led by Jack Sewell of MarLin and a third by Hallsannery's Pip Jollands.

Up to 24 members are taking part and they will continue to train until the first public event on 14 April, to celebrate the AONB's 50th Anniversary.



Members of the Shore Safari Team on a beach visit to Abbotsham with Marlin's Jack Sewell

WHO CARES FOR OUR COAST

Not only who, but how, and with what resources? We hope the Marine & Coastal Access Act, which was passed in November, will provide some answers. Nationally consultation is already underway on key elements, notably the selection of Marine Conservation Zones. Finding Sanctuary is formulating south-west proposals with input from the Devon MCZ Group which includes Coastwise's Jill Portsmouth. She will keep us posted.

Several facts contribute to make North Devon's position particularly challenging. We hope the Biosphere Reserve, which shares the ecosystem objectives of the Marine Act, will take a keen interest. Lundy will be amongst the first designated MCZs but adjacent waters seem likely to host a major off-shore wind farm. As John Butterwith of the North Devon Fishermen's Association recently told us, the Atlantic Array

would seriously impact local fisheries. He is addressing the fishermen's interests, but who is looking after North Devon's wider concerns? Such a major industrial development would bring opportunities, as well as environmental challenges, with a North Devon grid connection and the possibility of local construction and maintenance servicing of the site.

Until now there has been little sign of leadership in advancing local marine interests. The notable lack of an estuary officer is one consequence that causes concern. Coastwise continues to use its links with relevant organisations such as the Biosphere, the AONB and the Devon Maritime Forum to raise this and related issues.

AUTUMN COURSE 2009 REVIEW

Last autumn's Our Coast course was notable for the inclusion of personal stories of man's relationship with the sea and nature, a welcome contrast to policy and conservation concerns of the Marine Bill. The human cost was brought home by RNLi's Bernice Putt, and in local shipwreck histories told by diver Keith Denby. John Butterwith reminded us of our fishing heritage and the challenges to its future. Warren Collum and John Walters shared with us their artists' viewpoint.

The expertise of members was also in evidence. Robert Down's talk on renewables provided a welcome perspective on local proposals such as the Atlantic Array. Rob Jutsum's bird talk, with John Broomhead's ID Quiz and a field visit to Isley, helped us know our birds. Jay Nicholson presented his delightful film *Between the Tides*, and captured Coastwise enthusiasm for beach visits, setting the scene for the quiz which followed, won by Jim Monroe.

We cast our net wider during end of term mini sessions with photographs from the Arabian Gulf (Robert Down) Florida (Ro Madgett) and Galapagos (Ruth Turner & Don Mills) to make us envious, and a microscope demonstration by Eric Pufahl, introduced us to fascinating animals to be found right here.

We had a Field Studies Council presentation on the rocky shore from Mark Ward and Combe Martin Museum generously invited several Coastwise members unable to attend Shore Safari Training to the training Mark offered their volunteers. Jim Monroe is now liaising with the Museum on our behalf, with Don Mills, to encourage collaboration.

A highlight for Coastwise members was the opportunity to take part in a Marlin workshop in Plymouth led by Keith Hiscock. The eight able to do so greatly appreciated the talks, the lab facilities and the abundance of different organisms found on a southern shore. We are greatly indebted to Marlin, and others that welcome our interest and participation. Following a suggestion by Jack Sewell several members are currently applying for grant support via Nature@Sundown for modest investigations we would like to pursue.

RUNNING COASTWISE

For a full report on the last year's activities see the Chair's Report (website) approved at December's AGM, at which committee members were appointed as follows:

Paula Ferris	Co-Chair
Robert Down	Co-Chair & Treasurer
Marjorie Heath	Secretary
John Broomhead	(Programme
Malcolm Roberts	(Co-ordinators
Jill Portsmouth	External Relations Co-ordinator
Paul Madgett	Research Co-ordinator
Anne Brown /Don Hills	(Committee
Jim Monroe	(Members
Jay Nicholson/Eric Pufahl	Observers

NEW SESSION

January

- 7 Clouds, Dr Paul Madgett, geologist
- 14 Diver's View, Chris Mandry, Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua
- 21 Coastal Plants, Rebecca House, Plantlife
- 28 Water Quality, Brian Grant, Environment Agency

February

- 4 Whose Coast? Prof Peter Howard, landscape geographer
- 11 Glorious Mud, Dr Tegwyn Harris, biologist
- 18 Marine Act, Andrew Knights, Natural England
- 25 Moveable Feast - Coastwise

March

- 4 Rocky Shore Year, Dr Pip Jollands, Hallsannery
- 11 Course members' Mini-sessions

REASONS TO JOIN 2010

As if the programme is not enough! For £30 full membership or £5 for Associates (attending minority of sessions at £3 each) there also will be several field visits and opportunities to get as involved in our project work as much as you want.

We like to recruit around 60 members, a full house, as we want as many as possible to share our enjoyment of Coastwise, please spread the word.

For programme details and membership forms - see website www.coastwisenorthdevon.org.uk,

☎ Marjorie Heath 01271 831190.